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Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd
Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)
Welsh Health Specialised
Services Committee (WHSSC)

Health and Social Care Committee

One-day inquiry on wheelchair services in Wales

Additional information - Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC)

Your ref/eich cyf:

Our ref/ein cyf:

Date/dyddiad: 26 March 2012

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Llinos Dafydd
Clerk
Health and Social Care Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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Dear Llinos,

Health and Social Care Committee's one-day inquiry on wheelchair services in Wales

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Health and Social Care Committee one-day inquiry on wheelchair services in Wales. At the meeting the Chair invited us to submit any further information not covered during the sessions, or any information that we were unable to provide on the day. There are two specific areas on which I would like to provide further information, the measurement of the 18 week referral to treatment (RTT) time for wheelchairs, and the timescale for the completion of the service specification for wheelchair services.

18 week RTT time – At the committee there was a question raised about the delivery of the 18 week RTT time and how this relates to the national waiting times target of 26 weeks. There has been detailed work undertaken on this by the services in conjunction with the Delivery and Support Unit, which has been discussed and approved by the All Wales Posture and Mobility Partnership Board.

The work recognises the delivery requirement for the pathway within the direct control of the Posture and Mobility Service of 18 weeks, and focuses on the achievement of the requirements of the Children's NSF (6 weeks from Referral to Assessment, 8 weeks to delivery). Together this ensures that the delivery of the 18 week RRT, and brings the services into line with the overall national waiting times requirement of 26 weeks. This approach ensures that there are no unmeasured stages of the pathway, in which patients may be lost and overall waiting times

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elongated. The table below illustrates how the framework applies to each part of the process.

	Stage of the Pathway		Required Waiting time for stage	Required Waiting time for segment	Required waiting time overall
Referral to Treatment -	1	"Referral" to "Assessment"	6 weeks for Paediatrics	Stages 1 plus 2 plus 4 = 18 weeks for Adults and Paediatrics	26 weeks
	2	"Assessment" to "Order to Supplier"	n/a		
	3	"Order to supplier" to "delivery to service"	n/a		
	4	"Delivery to service" to "delivery to client"	8 weeks for Paediatrics		

It should be noted that these are not targets, but rather standards to which WHSSC and the Partnership Board expect the service to aspire to and attain.

Service Specification – The service currently works to the WHSSC commissioning policy for Assistive Technologies. This document is available on the WHSSC website, and provides a high level specification of the range of services provided by the Artificial Limb and Appliance Services. The work that the Partnership Board had commissioned links directly to this, as it is intended to provide further detail to users on the range of equipment provided.

A significant amount of work has already been undertaken, it was originally planned to complete this work in time for submission to the next available Partnership Board in Autumn 2012.

Following the concerns raised at the meeting:

- I have discussed the need to complete this work with the workstream lead as soon as possible, and;

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- I am currently exploring the scope for arranging a Partnership Board in the Summer to ensure that this work can be considered and subject to their approval, it would then be submitted for approval and implementation to the next available Joint Committee meeting.

I hope that this provides the clarity that the committee were seeking, however please let me know if there is any further information that they require.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Phillips
Director of Planning & Performance

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